



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

For Immediate Release:

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Inmate Sentenced for Conspiracy to Distribute Drugs Inside of Detention Center

A Howard County Detention Center inmate who pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute narcotic drugs within the jail has been sentenced to four years in prison. Lovell Donte Taylor, 40, of the 9500 block of Sylvan Still Road, Laurel, was sentenced by Howard County Circuit Court Judge Richard S. Bernhardt this morning.

According to police and prosecutors, Taylor was involved in the conspiracy that took place in the fall of 2016. He was in jail awaiting a hearing on a violation of probation charge when he conspired with his wife and others, inside and outside of the jail, to import Buprenorphine via letters soaked in the synthetic opioid and dried before being mailed to the detention center. The letters were offered for sale to other inmates who ingested the documents.

At this morning's hearing, Senior Assistant State's Attorney Douglas L. Nelsen quoted from a recorded jail call between Taylor and his wife. "I feel like we're running a business," Nelsen quoted Heather Taylor to her husband. Nelsen reported that Lovell Taylor replied, "We are running a business."

Judge Bernhardt noted that Taylor was in jail "a week or less" when he conspired to begin importing drugs. The judge sentenced Taylor to four years in prison.

Lovell Taylor's wife, Heather Taylor entered an Alford plea to a misdemeanor charge of delivering a controlled dangerous substance to a person in a place of confinement last month and will be sentenced in October. An Alford plea is a guilty plea that a defendant makes as part of a plea bargain, without actually admitting guilt, but conceding that the state has sufficient evidence to convict. Another jail inmate, Matthew Robert Warfield, 35 of Forest Hill, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute drugs on August 18, 2017 and was sentenced to four years in prison.